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SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE KENTUCKY INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND.

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1847.

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SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

# BOARD OF VISITORS

OF THE

Kentucky Institution for the Education of the Blind,

AND

CATALOGUE OF THE OFFICERS AND PUPILS.

FOR THE YEAR 1847.

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FRANKFORT, KY.  
A. G. HODGES---STATE PRINTER.  
1848.



## OFFICERS OF THE INSTITUTION.

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BRYCE M. PATTEN, A. M.,

DIRECTOR AND PRINCIPAL TEACHER.

OTIS PATTEN,

TEACHER.

JOSEPH B. SMITH, A. B.,

TEACHER OF MUSIC.

MRS. MARY H. PARIS,

ACTING MATRON.

WILLIAM D. GOTSHALL,

TEACHER OF HANDICRAFT.

R. C. HEWITT, M. D.,

PHYSICIAN.

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## BOARD OF VISITORS:

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HON. WILLIAM F. BULLOCK, *President.*

SAMUEL CASSEDAY,

THEODORE S. BELL, M. D.,

CHARLES J. CLARKE,

EDWARD P. HUMPHREY, D. D.,

WILLIAM F. PETTIT.

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WILLIAM RICHARDSON, *Treasurer.*

BRYCE M. PATTEN, *Secretary.*

## CATALOGUE OF PUPILS.

NAMES, MALES.	RESIDENCE.
Francis W. Ratliffe,* - - -	Daviess county.
William A. Bartlett, - - -	Versailles.
Jonathan Sansberry, - - -	Jefferson county.
Samuel N. Seay, - - -	Washington county.
Pearcy Price, - - -	Louisville.
Owen Waters, - - -	Maysville.
Walker Hulett, - - -	Lexington.
Thomas Deboe, - - -	Jessamine county.
Robert B. Green, - - -	Louisville.
Albert R. Armstrong, - - -	Montgomery county.
William Dickson, - - -	Jefferson county.
Swebston Baughan, - - -	Bullitt county.
John A. Metcalfe, - - -	Louisville.
Robert N. Bradley, - - -	Scott county.
Melville Malcom, - - -	Georgetown.
Daniel J. Lyons, - - -	Louisville.
Walter Robertson, - - -	Barren county.
James R. Golloday, - - -	Trigg county.
Richard P. Diamond, - - -	Lexington.
William E. Read,   - - -	Ohio county, Ia.
Lorenzo T. Tucker,   - - -	Jackson county, Ia.
James A. Tucker,   - - -	Jackson county, Ia.
Isaac M. Easley,   - - -	Montgomery county, Ia.
George M. Knighton,   - - -	Bowlinggreen, Ia.
Joseph Simonis,† - - -	Louisville.
Thomas W. Nevil,† - - -	Henderson county.
James M. Heady,† - - -	Spencer county.
NAMES, FEMALES.	RESIDENCE.
Mary P. Bartlett,* - - -	Versailles.
Sarah J. Clarke, - - -	Jefferson county.
Araminta A. Hodge, - - -	Louisville.
Elvessa J. Ruth, - - -	Louisville.
Mary A. Gibson, - - -	Louisville.
Mary Ogden, - - -	Louisville.
Catharine J. Eastin, - - -	Richmond.
Mary A. Mitchell, - - -	New Orleans, La.
Joanna Diamond, - - -	Lexington.
Ellen Emmons, - - -	Louisville.
Mary J. Green, - - -	Louisville.
Rachael M. Davis, - - -	Taylorsville.
Martha J. Arnold, - - -	Anderson county.
Sallie Smith, - - -	Lincoln county.
Rosanna Sercy, - - -	Anderson county.
Eliza Kinnear,   - - -	Jefferson county, Ia.
Louisa Levi,† - - -	Louisville.

\* Honorably discharged.

|| Returned to Indiana.

† Discontinued.



## ADMISSION OF PUPILS.

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Applications for admission must be addressed to the Director; but no person who is under six or over fifteen years of age, can be admitted without a special vote of the Board of Visitors.

Candidates for admission must be of good mental capacity, and must present certificates from some respectable physician, of incurable blindness, and of freedom from all offensive and infectious diseases; and they must furnish satisfactory testimonials of unexceptionable moral character.

Every application must also state the name, residence and Post Office address of the applicant; the year, month, day, and place of his birth; the names of his parents, and whether they are living; the pecuniary circumstances of the parents or other relations who have the care of the applicant; at what age and by what means the blindness was produced; whether it is total; and whether there are other instances of blindness in the same family, or among their relatives.

Indigent children resident in this State, will be received and educated at the expense of the State. In addition to all the above requirements, they must furnish certificates from some magistrate, or other well known respectable citizen, that they are inhabitants of Kentucky, and that their parents and immediate relations are unable to defray the expenses of their education.

Both State and paying pupils, must come provided with a full supply of comfortable clothing, which must be marked with the name of the owner, and renewed, from time to time, as may be necessary. Traveling expenses to and from the Institution, must also be paid by the pupils or their friends.

The annual term of study commences on the 20th day of September, and closes on the 15th of July. It is important that the pupils be present at the commencement of the term, remain till it closes, and then return to their homes, and spend the vacation with their friends.

The annual expenses for paying pupils for board, tuition, washing, and music, are *one hundred dollars*. If a pupil remains at the Institution during the vacation, an additional charge of twenty dollars is made. Payments must be made quarterly in advance.

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## COURSE OF STUDY.

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Reading, Spelling, Writing, Geography, Arithmetic, Algebra, Geometry, English Grammar and Composition, Rhetoric, Logic, Ancient and Modern Languages, Natural, Mental and Moral Philosophy, History, Anatomy, Physiology, Geology, Mineralogy, Conchology, Vocal and Instrumental Music, and various kinds of handicraft.

ANNUAL REPORT

TO THE

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

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The Board of Visitors of the Kentucky Institution for the Education of the Blind, respectfully present their

SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT:

It affords us high satisfaction to be able to report, that the Institution, intrusted to our care, has, during the last year, enjoyed its accustomed prosperity; that the lives of officers and pupils have been preserved; that the few cases of severe illness that have occurred, have readily yielded to the treatment of skillful and faithful physicians and nurses; that the pupils have, with but few exceptions, been attentive to their studies, and exemplary in their deportment; and that the officers have continued to discharge the duties of their responsible offices with ability and fidelity.

The number of pupils at the commencement of the year 1847, as given in our last annual report, was thirty-one; one of whom left at the beginning of the year. During the year, twelve new pupils have been admitted; one, who left the Institution in the year 1843, on account of illness, has returned; one, who was dismissed in 1846, for misconduct, having furnished satisfactory evidence of reformation, has been re-admitted; four, who gave little promise of being much benefited by a longer continuance in the Institution, have returned to their friends, and will not again be admitted; six have been returned to Indiana, to become pupils in the Institution recently opened in Indianapolis, under the auspices of that State; and three have received an honorable discharge.

From the above statement, it will be seen that the number of pupils connected with the Institution, at the present time, is thirty-one; of whom seventeen are males, and fourteen females. One is from the State of Louisiana, and thirty are inhabitants of Kentucky. Two are supported by their parents, and twenty-eight are beneficiaries of the State. One of the paying pupils, a son of Rev. Howard Malcolm, D. D., President of Georgetown College, is not blind, but so excessively near-sighted, as to make it extremely difficult, if not impossible, for him to acquire a knowledge of music, and some other branches, by the modes of instruction ordinarily pursued by teachers of seeing pupils.

The entire number of pupils received into the Institution, since it was opened for the reception of pupils in 1842, is fifty-three; thirty-two males, and twenty-one females. Of these, only fifteen were born blind; the blindness of thirty-eight was the result of disease or accident.



The Director of our Institution has made increased efforts during the past year, to diffuse more extensively among the people of the State, accurate knowledge as to the character and objects of the Institution, the capabilities of the Blind, and the munificence of the State towards this unfortunate and interesting class. In addition to the means heretofore employed, he has, accompanied by one or more of the pupils, visited the counties of Bullitt, Nelson, Hart, Barren, Green, Adair, Casey, Lincoln, Boyle, Mercer, Anderson, Shelby, Kenton, Campbell and Boone; and he proposes, during the present year, to visit the counties in the extreme Southern and Eastern sections of the State, from which but few pupils have hitherto been sent to the Institution.

The Director, in his expeditions, found many blind persons sitting in darkness, ignorance, and helplessness, without hope either for the present or future state of existence. Some of these were induced to enter the Institution, and they have already learned that the world presents, even to the blind, much of light, and hope, and happiness. Others, we regret to state, still drag out useless, miserable lives in their secluded homes—shut out from almost every means of physical, intellectual, and moral culture. This, however, does not result from indisposition on the part of the blind to avail themselves of the privileges offered to them in the Institution, which has been established for their benefit. It most frequently results from ignorance on the part of parents as to the importance of education, or from their unwillingness to send from home, and intrust to the care of others, their unfortunate children, who are often the most interesting, and almost always the most beloved, of the family. Misfortune of any kind tends strongly to endear to parents the child that is visited with it; and of all misfortunes, blindness, perhaps, has this tendency in the highest degree. To sever, in any measure, the bonds which affection and misfortune have combined to unite in the closest ties, often requires a more powerful effort than parents are willing to make, though urged to it by conscience, and the entreaties of their unhappy children, who, sometimes, with tearful eyes, and the most eloquent petitions, beg of their parents permission to leave their homes and enter the Institution. These petitions, so reasonable, and so well calculated to reach the heart of an affectionate parent, are sometimes disregarded, and the hapless petitioners consigned to other long years of rayless gloom and inaction.

We trust that members of the General Assembly, coming as they do from all sections of the State, and possessing, as they must, no inconsiderable influence in their respective districts, will take pleasure in making known to the people the existence of our Institution, the advantages it offers to the blind, and their capabilities under appropriate means of instruction. It is hoped, also, that members of the learned professions, and other gentlemen of influence, and, indeed, all friends of the blind, will esteem it a privilege to co-operate with us in searching out, and drawing from the seclusion of their cheerless homes, the uneducated blind, who exist in almost every county of the State, and who are generally in indigent circumstances. Many have already manifested praiseworthy zeal in this respect, and, in consequence of their efforts, some, who but for them, would still be enduring a kind of living death, in physical, intellectual, and moral darkness, are now rejoicing in the light and gladness shed around them in the Institution.

The improvement of the pupils of our Institution during the last year, has been highly satisfactory. The same course of instruction and study, as heretofore reported, has been pursued, and the interest of the pupils generally, in their various studies, continues to increase. And while their love of literature and of science, and their anxiety to become qualified to gain an honorable livelihood by their own industry, are constantly strengthening, we are happy in the assurance, that the improvement of their moral powers, is equally satisfactory.

Of the ability and faithfulness of the officers of our Institution, as well as of the condition of the Institution itself, some proper estimate may be formed from the following extract from a notice of the Institution, from the pen of Miss D. L. Dix, so well and favorably known in this State, and throughout the Union, for her self-sacrificing, well-directed, and successful exertions in behalf of the unfortunate, and particularly of the insane :

“The proficiency of the pupils is no less surprising than it is gratifying. They are thoroughly instructed, and are remarkably fortunate in having competent teachers wholly devoted to their happiness and improvement. I have rarely visited any Institution for children and young persons, under State patronage, so thoroughly well organized, and so judiciously managed throughout, as is this. Go when you will, at morning, noon, or evening; in storm or sunshine, expected or unlooked for, you will find that here’s

“A place for all things, all things in their place ;”

and so, too, each hour marked by appropriate study, refreshment, labor, exercise, and rest. It is not possible to visit this Institution even but once, (my visits have been renewed and repeated) and not perceive that all is fair, open and true, in the domestic circle, and in the school. There is no need to prepare for visitors, because, as in all rightly regulated establishments, *order, method, and good government* so prevail, that you cannot find them at any time amiss. Careful attention is paid to the personal habits of the pupils. Cleanliness and neatness are obligatory. While the high-principled and discreet superintendent of this school exacts the most correct habits in the pupils, the same are required of all the inmates; and while the mental capacities are trained and educated, it is never forgotten that the moral nature is to be enlightened and directed, and the manners and conversation made to harmonize. A good example enforces good counsels. Firmness, kindness, and fidelity characterize the teachers; obedience, good will, and industry, with but few occasional exceptions, distinguish the pupils.

“Here, these children and young persons from whom the natural sun is veiled, who are, through privation of vision, prevented from joining in the general bustle, and cares, and amusements of life—here, they find happiness in the acquisition of knowledge, in the various exercise of their faculties, and in learning how, in time to come, they may best benefit their friends, and become useful members of society. The bounty of the State is here well bestowed: these blind, but intelligent children, will repay to the public an hundred fold all they are now receiving. Thoroughly educated, and trained to virtuous and industrious habits, they will not return to their own homes, without extending good influences in their own families and communities. They are taught that it is a duty they owe the State to be assiduous in study, and correct in habits. No harsh impositions or severe restraints enforce the one or secure the other.



"It may be thought by some readers that possibly a too favorable estimate is placed upon the Louisville Institution by the writer. She can only say it is open to all, and of easy access; let the public and individuals judge for themselves. More might very justly have been added in commendation, but it is uncalled for; without ostentation it reveals and sustains a fair and beautiful character. I have, on my various and distant journeys, heard this school referred to by those whose children have enjoyed its benefits, and oftener by persons who have casually visited it, and on no single occasion have I heard it named in any but terms of confidence and interest. The attachment of the pupils of the Institution to their companions and teachers, is a guarantee that "all is well there" in the domestic and social relations."

The grateful acknowledgments of the Board of Visitors are tendered to Miss Dix for the donation of valuable pamphlets and books to our pupils.

We are indebted, also, to the publishers of the Presbyterian Herald, Star in the West, Catholic Advocate, Louisville Journal, and Morning Courier, for copies of their papers, gratuitously sent to the Institution during the last year. We hope these will be continued, and that the proprietors of other journals in Kentucky, will grant us similar favors, as the pupils derive much pleasure as well as valuable information from these papers, which are read to them daily by one of the officers.

The number of books in common print, belonging to the library of the Institution, has been increased since our last report, from 180 to 215 volumes. To these books the pupils have access, at all times, by means of seeing readers; and they are permitted, at the close of the session, to take to their homes such works as they may wish to have read to them by their friends during vacation. Regarding these books as an important means of instruction, we solicit, from the friends of the Institution, additional donations to our library. We hope that authors and publishers of new books will present to the Institution a copy of each volume issued from the press.

Nor can we forbear calling the attention of the Legislature and of the community, generally, to the importance of increasing the number of books in raised letters for the use of the blind. As but few volumes of this character have been printed, and as Kentucky has, in no way, contributed to increase the number, it is hoped that the Legislature, or some of our wealthy and benevolent citizens will, ere long, furnish the means of embossing some of the more valuable standard works in English literature.

We also solicit, for the cabinets of the Institution, donations of minerals, shells, models of animals, and works of art, and all kinds of curiosities, especially such as are addressed to the sense of touch. A thousand objects in nature and art, with which the seeing necessarily become familiar in early childhood, will never be accurately known to the blind, unless the objects themselves, or exact models of them, be presented to their feeling.

A good organ is greatly needed in our Institution, as several of the pupils might be qualified for organists in churches, were the means afforded for becoming acquainted with the instrument. All the older schools for the blind, in the United States, are supplied with organs, and it is exceedingly desirable, that the Kentucky Institution should not longer remain, in this respect, behind them. We hope that the blind youth educated in this school will, at the end of their course, go out prepared to support themselves by their own industry; but if we would not be disappointed in these hopes, we

must give them the best possible preparation. While, therefore, the friends of the blind in New England, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and other States, are making liberal donations to the Institutions in those States, it is hoped the benevolent in Kentucky, will remember the wants of our Institution in this and other departments.

Several pianos, also, are needed, in addition to the two belonging to the Institution, but the want of funds has deterred us from procuring them. As, however, fifteen of the pupils have taken lessons on this instrument the last year, we have been under the necessity of continuing to rent one, and still the opportunities for practice, are not at all adequate to the wants of the pupils.

On account of the greater number of pupils in music, we have increased the salary of Mr. Smith, who has the entire charge of the classes in vocal music, and of instrumental in part, and who devotes to them three hours daily.

Considerable interest has been added to the musical department, the last year, by the formation of a musical band, consisting of a number of the male pupils most advanced in this science.

For the use of the band, and of several of the female pupils who were desirous of receiving instruction on the guitar, the following instruments have been purchased :

Three Clarinets,	-	-	-	\$ 23 00
One Cornet, or Piston,	-	-	-	21 00
Two French Horns,	-	-	-	20 00
One Bass Trombone,	-	-	-	11 95
One Flute,	-	-	-	2 50
Two Guitars,	-	-	-	25 00
				<hr/>
				\$103 45
				<hr/>

The office of Matron was vacated in August last by the resignation of Mrs. Van Deman. In the mean time, the place has been filled very satisfactorily by Mrs. Paris, who had previously been employed as Assistant Matron.

In October last, we appointed Dr. R. C. Hewitt, Physician to the Institution, believing that justice to the school, as well as to the generous physicians who, for more than five years, had rendered gratuitous medical service, required it. Dr. H., for the last two years, has, without any compensation, taken charge of most of the patients that have needed medical attendance, and his treatment has been unusually successful. The friends of the pupils may be assured, that, under the care of Dr. H., aided, when circumstances may require it, by the best medical talent of the city, the pupils will receive every needed attention.

The mechanical department of the Institution, it gives us pleasure to state, continues to defray all its expenses, and afford a small profit from year to year. This result, which is altogether unprecedented in the early history of similar Institutions in this country, and, therefore, unexpected, is the more gratifying, when the disadvantages under which this department has labored, are taken into consideration. Not only have we been prevented, by want of funds, from furnishing the stock, tools, and instruction, that



seemed necessary to secure success, but we have been able to allow to all the male pupils engaged in handicraft, only one small shop room, seventeen feet square. This, being in the basement of the edifice occupied by all the members of the Institution, is very unsuitable for the purpose, in many respects, especially on account of the danger from fire, as a considerable quantity of combustible materials necessarily accumulates in this room. We would, therefore, respectfully suggest to the General Assembly the need of funds for the erection of a shop, as well as ground on which to erect it—the lot occupied by the Institution being so small as to forbid our devoting any portion of it to this object. Moreover, additional land is absolutely necessary to furnish room for play grounds for the pupils of both sexes, as only the scantiest limits for exercise are now enjoyed by them, in consequence of which, their health is greatly endangered. No other Institution for the Blind in the United States, is so poorly furnished with respect to grounds, as our own. The grounds of the Ohio Institution consist of nine acres, and yet the Trustees in late reports, recommend that several additional acres be purchased. The Trustees of the Institution recently opened in Indiana, have purchased eight acres at a cost of five thousand dollars. The Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, and other State Institutions, are also furnished with ample grounds. We will only add, on this point, that strict economy requires that an immediate purchase be made, as ground in the vicinity of the Institution is rapidly increasing in value.

The only branches of mechanical labor pursued by the male pupils, during the last year, are matrass-making, and brush-making, in which they have attained to a good degree of skill. They manufacture matrasses, and cloth, hair, hat, shoe, horse, and scrubbing brushes, that compare favorably with any in the market. A deeper interest than formerly is manifested by the pupils in the mechanical department, and several of them devote most of their time to it, and hope, on leaving the Institution, to be able to gain an honorable and independent livelihood by their labor. At the commencement of the present year, we engaged the services of Mr. W. D. Gotshall, a blind gentleman, educated at the Ohio Institution, as teacher of brush-making, to which branch the attention of our pupils will be confined, until a suitable shop shall be provided.

The following statement exhibits the profit of the mechanical department the last year :

	Dr.	
To value of manufactured articles on hand, Jan. 1, 1847,	\$ 126	57
To value of unmanufactured stock on hand, Jan. 1, 1847,	256	00
To cost of raw materials during year 1847,	-	7 95
To amount paid mechanical teacher, - - - -	20	00
	<hr/>	
	\$ 410	52
	Cr.	
By value of manufactured articles on hand, Jan. 1, 1848,	\$ 178	14
By value of unmanufactured stock on hand, Jan. 1, 1848,	174	75
By sales during year 1847, - - - - -	118	38
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	\$ 471	27
Leaving a balance in favor of the department, of -		<hr/> <hr/> \$ 60 75

The receipts of the Institution for the year ending January 1, 1848, have been as follows:

From State of Kentucky for beneficiaries, - - -	\$ 2,555 40
From State of Indiana, - - - - -	435 00
From paying pupils, - - - - -	415 00
From sales of embossed books, - - - - -	41 80
From sales of articles manufactured by pupils, - -	118 38
Donation by Dr. D. Drake, - - - - -	50 00
Donation by strangers, - - - - -	17 50
Balance reported on hand, Jan. 1, 1847, - - -	\$ 611 80
To which, add \$75, due at that time for im-	
provements and paid a few days after, - - -	75 00
	<hr/> 687 60
	<hr/> \$ 4,320 68

The expenditures for the same year, have been as follows:

Salaries of officers, - - - - -	\$ 2,193 70
Wages of servants, - - - - -	430 69
Clothing of pupils, - - - - -	38 27
Furniture, provisions, &c., - - - - -	1,090 45
Fuel, - - - - -	211 04
Cows, and stable expenses, - - - - -	69 65
Materials for work department, - - - - -	7 95
Musical instruments, - - - - -	103 45
Rent of piano and tuning instruments, - - -	47 66
Expenses of expeditions & exhibitions with pupils,	146 21
Repairs, - - - - -	66 55
Brick for pavement, - - - - -	75 00
Insurance, - - - - -	30 00
	<hr/> 4,510 62

Leaving against the Institution, a balance of - \$ 189 94 which, with \$4 48, in the hands of the Treasurer, is due Mr. Patten, the Director, for money advanced by him for provisions, &c., in December, 1847.

In addition to the above receipts, the Institution has received from the benevolent ladies of Louisville, a donation of venitian blinds, oil cloth, chairs, and other furniture, amounting to more than five hundred dollars, the proceeds of a tea party, given in Louisville, in May last, for the benefit of the Institution. These articles, which had been greatly needed for several years, were peculiarly acceptable, as the want of funds prevented us from purchasing them. To the ladies, the managers of the above party, and to Dr. Drake, who for the last three years, has made to the Institution an annual donation of fifty dollars, we tender our grateful acknowledgments.

We conclude this report with the recommendation, that an appropriation be made by the General Assembly, for the erection of a work shop, and for the purchase of additional ground, three pianos, and an organ.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

At a meeting of the Board of Visitors of the Kentucky Institution for the Blind, held on the 22d day of January, 1848, the above was read, and adopted as the Annual Report of the Board.

BRYCE M. PATTEN, *Secretary.*





